

HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES
September 19, 2006

Budget Committee Members Present

Mary-Louise Woolsey, Chairman
Michael Plouffe, Vice-Chairman
William Lally, Selectman Representative
Rosemary Lamers, School Board Representative
Russ Bernstein
Rusty Bridle
Maury Friedman
Dick Hansen
Jack Lessard
Richard Nichols
Michael Pierce
Norman Silberdick

Excused

Eileen Latimer

Unexcused

Pat Collins

Chairman Woolsey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Chairman Woolsey introduced the members of the Committee

Ms. Lamers introduced the guests for the evening: Jim Gaylord, Superintendent, SAU21; Sandra Nickerson, Chairperson, Hampton School Board; Denise Richter, Vice Chairperson, Hampton School Board; and William Sanders, Business Administrator.

Chairman Woolsey reminded the Committee that the School Board budget will be from July 2007 to June 2008. This can be confusing as it is different from the Town Department budgets.

Mr. Sanders said that the School Board is looking forward to working with the Committee on the preparation of the budget. Mr. Sanders discussed the final 2006 general fund surplus of \$862,192. The surplus is comprised of the following:

Revenue	
Higher Catastrophic Aid	\$ 85,000
Higher Medicare Reimb.	95,000
Bond Bank Refund	13,000
Other (Interest/Misc.)	<u>21,000</u>
Sub-total	\$214,000

Expenditure	
Salaries	\$325,000
Tuition	125,000
Benefits	116,000
Other-net	<u>(8)</u>
Sub-total	\$558,000
SF&N and Other	\$ <u>90,000</u>
Total Surplus	\$862,000

Mr. Sanders said that they will provide an executive summary of the operating budget monthly showing a comparison to last year. This should provide better clarity and help everyone see earlier in the year any areas that might have surpluses, etc. Mr. Sanders invited anyone with questions to call him.

Mr. Gaylord discussed the surplus under salaries. He said this was due to several retirements and some resignations of people high on the salary scale. There was then an excellent hiring season and they were able to hire some people at a lesser rate who were as qualified or better qualified. Mr. Gaylord said since benefits are tied to salary, they are also less. Mr. Gaylord said they will put together a budget that reflects the needs of the district.

Mr. Gaylord said all reports are in. Reports from Winnacunnet are also in. He expressed compliments to Mr. Sanders and Nancy Tuttle. Chairman Woolsey commended the principals of the schools.

Mr. Silberdick commented on the turnover in the faculty and asked if this can be predicted going forward. Mr. Gaylord said they have already gone through the largest part of the bubble. Some will be retiring in the next few years, but not as many.

Mr. Friedman asked if there are any numbers available on student load forecast over the next four or five years. Mr. Gaylord said there is a study coming out within the month showing a forecast of student population.

Mr. Hansen asked how many replacements there were. Mr. Gaylord said five people retired and 10 people resigned.

Mr. Silberdick asked if there was anyway to shorten the cycles to make the school budget closer to the timeline of the Town budget. Mr. Gaylord said this is not possible because of state regulations.

Ms. Woolsey asked Mr. Gaylord to bring in an idea of what federally mandated programs will cost and how much the school district will be reimbursed. Mr. Gaylord will bring this to the Committee later in the year.

Mr. Friedman asked if a report was done showing federal funding and how it would be disbursed. Mr. Sanders said a report had been done.

Chairman Woolsey asked if there would be any large warrant articles other than the usual this year. Ms. Lamers said that the Withdrawal Committee will be forwarding an article. There will be a public hearing on this warrant article on October 10th at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Pierce commended Winnacunnet for donating their auditorium for Candidates' Night.

Chairman Woolsey thanked all the members of the School Board for doing an excellent job.

School Board Report

Ms. Lamers said that school is off to a wonderful start. Chairman Woolsey asked if there was a spike in population. Ms. Lamers replied that there was.

Selectman Report

Chairman Woolsey said that it was very important that the Committee members watch the Selectmen's meetings.

Mr. Lally said that the Selectmen began the budget review at last night's meeting. He will ask cable to post the schedule of the review.

Chairman Woolsey said that the public is not getting a true picture of what it costs to operate the Town because of the offloading of various items into warrant articles. She urged the Committee members to read the article on selectmen's authority in *Town and City* magazine.

Mr. Pierce asked if there is a plan on the Fire Department. Mr. Lally said the Fire Chief is still working on it.

Mr. Friedman asked what the status of negotiations is. Mr. Lally said negotiations are still in progress.

Ms. Lamers asked about the program in Maryland regarding trained volunteers to help in a disaster situation. Mr. Lally said it is actually FEMA. People, on a volunteer basis, attend a 40-hour seminar. Mr. Lally said an EOC plan is in place and the public will be informed. Mr. Pierce suggested that a public hearing be held on this item.

Mr. Bridle said that he felt information on warrant articles should be out sooner.

Approval of Minutes – June 20, 2006

Moved by Mr. Lessard, seconded by Mr. Pierce, to approve the Minutes of June 20, 2006, as amended.

The following change was made:

Page 4, 3rd paragraph. Chairman of the Planning Board's name should be spelled as Tracy Emerick.

Vote: 11 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention (Bernstein). Motion passed.

Old Business

Mr. Friedman told the Committee it is very important to understand their role in the preparation of the budget. He said the Committee must have information and then analyze that information. Information needed is as follows:

1. Are outside funding sources explored and properly allocated?
2. How does Hampton compare with other towns?
3. Are major capital projects being judicially planned?
4. What programs are in place to evaluate and improve productivity?
5. Is there appropriate focus on un-served and under-served constituencies in the community?
6. What are the long term plans, problems, exposures and needs that will have to be addressed if not in this year's budget, then soon after?
7. How do the departments handle summer peak loads for police, fire and recreation and in the winter for Public Works?

Chairman Woolsey said that the Committee will want to look at a projection on debt service when looking at the budget.

New Business

Chairman Woolsey said there are no appointments for the October 17th meeting. That meeting will be a work session to determine how the Committee wants to proceed on the 2007 budget. By law, the Selectmen have total control of the operating budget once the vote is taken in March. Chairman Woolsey said that the Committee's job is to represent the taxpayers who have put the members in office.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Mr. Lessard **moved**, seconded by Mr. Hansen, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice
Secretary

Mary-Louise Woolsey, Chairman